(iv) Greater use of quick-setting cement capsule grouted roof bolts for support in development workings in underground mines.

(v) Reduced exposure of workers to mining hazards by increasing use of SDLs and LHDs for loading operations in below ground mines.

(vi) Continued efforts towards induction of capita! intensive mechanised longwall mining with powered support, where workmen work under skin-to-skin steel roof support in underground mines.

Inefficiency in R & D Wing of Ordnance Units

316. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Research and Development Wing of the Ordnance units of the country is very poor and out of date;

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to inefficient R & D of Ordnance units country had to import vital ammunitions at a very heavy cost during the period from 1992-1993 to 1997-98; and

(c) if so, whether Government are taking adequate steps to clear this bottleneck without any further delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) to (c) The Research & Development (R & D) in the sphere of defence systems, new generation of arms and ammunition and equipment is primarily the responsibility of Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO), under the Department of Defence Research in the Ministry of Defence.

The R&D activity of Ordnance factories is restricted to product and process improvement only. As such the question of import of ammunition due to failure of R & D activities of ordnance factories does not arise. Imports do take place to meet enhanced requirements of the Armed Forces of items in existing product line or because of induction into service of new generation arms and equipment not developed indigenously.

Design Deficiency in SU-30 MK Aircraft

† 317. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to make an enquiry to find out the reasons for deteriorating combat capabilities of country's fighter aircrafts.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Since 1997-98 till 20th July 2000, IAF has lost 54 MIG aircrafts in accidents. The year-wise details are as under:—

	Aircraft lost
1997-98	12
1998-99	18
1999-2000	18
2000-2001	6
TOTAL:	54

21 pilots were kilted and 10 were injured in these accidents.

(c) to (e) After each accident, a Court of Inquiry (CQI) is conducted to find out the reasons of the accidents and also to suggest remedial measures. Findings of the Court *of* Inquiries reveal that technical defect, human error and bird hit are the three main causes for some of these accidents.

A High Powered Committee on Fighter Aircraft Accidents (COFAA) was constituted under the chairmanship of Scientific Adviser to Raksha Mantri to analyse the causes of accidents which submitted its report in September, 1997. It has made certain recommendations to minimize accident rate. Implementation of these recommendations would involve changes in organizational structure, procedures, training, design, technology *etc.* About 55 out of 84 recommendations have been implemented so far.

Finalisation of defence deal with Russia

321. SHRI PRAFUL PATEL:
SHRIMATIAMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised a defence deal with Russia to acquire T-90 tanks and "KIEV" class naval aircraft during the recent visit of the Defence Minister to Russia;

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held and decisions taken; and

(c) the impact on our defence expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE {SHRI GEORGE FERN ANDES): (a) No, Sir. (b) and (c) Do not arise.